



## HONORING the HUMAN SPIRIT

FRANCE: LAURENT PORDIÉ

**T**he Tibetan system of medicine was once practiced throughout Central and Southeast Asia. Today, Ladakh, in northern India, is one of the few places where it remains central to community life. In the past, Amchis, or traditional doctors, provided their skills free of charge, with villagers shouldering their farming chores in return. But the introduction of conventional medicine and a growth in social mobility have seen that barter system fall from favor. With it, Amchi skills themselves have begun to disappear. Laurent Pordié, a young French ethnopharmacologist, wants to re-establish these skills and improve healthcare in the region.